

THE American Freedman.

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VOL. III.]

NEW-YORK, APRIL, 1868.

[No. 1.

The American Freedman's Union Commission,

30 Vesey Street, New-York City.

"The object of this Commission is the relief, education, and elevation of the Freedmen of the United States, and to aid and cooperate with the people of the South, without distinction of race or color, in the improvement of their condition upon the basis of industry, education, freedom, and Christian morality. No school or depot of supplies shall be maintained from the benefits of which any shall be excluded because of color."—ART. II., CONSTITUTION.

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New-York Branch.

(Late National Freedman's Relief Association.)

ORGANIZED FEBRUARY 22, 1862.—INCORPORATED MARCH 23, 1865.

OFFICE, No. 30 VESEY STREET, NEW-YORK.

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The American Freedman.

THE WEST.

FIVE years' residence in the West—years that we count among the happiest in a very happy life—had given us great faith that it was only needful to present the cause of Southern education fairly before its people, to relieve that cause from odium, secure it a favorable hearing, and ensure it a cordial welcome. The heart of the West is as big as its immense prairies, and its views are as broad and generous as its acres and its soil. The event has justified our faith.

Mr. McKim, who has spent now nearly six months in the North-west, found himself and the cause he represented warmly welcomed. Among his cordial coadjutors were not only the old-time laborers in this field, such as the two Dr. Pattersons, Judge Gookins, Prof. Burroughs, Dr. Haven, etc., etc., but new men not before identified in fact, though always in interest with the movement, J. G. Scammon, Esq., Rev. Robert Collyer, Rev. Prof. Swing, West Dexter, Esq., E. C. Larned, Esq., and others, equally active and valuable collaborators. In truth, to mention names seems invidious, since whoever heard an exposition of the doctrines and methods of the Commission gave them a cordial approval, and generally promised some personal support. Its broad and liberal policy found especial favor in a section which impatiently suffers any thing contracted or illiberal. Its unsectarian method commended itself to men of all sects and parties, and its national character gave it a hold upon the public confidence which no mere local organization could have secured.

No local branch was formed; but an Advisory Committee was organized, with whose aid and counsel a Western Secretary of the Central Commission, in continual correspondence with the parent society carries on the work.

By this committee no denominational tests are applied in the selection of teachers. The apostle's pre-requisite, "apt to teach," is the one and only recognized test. No denominational barriers prevent from working in true fellowship men who, widely separated by their creeds, are heartily united in their resolute purpose that every American citizen shall possess intelligence to judge for himself between conflicting systems.

Chiefly occupied by this preliminary labor of reorganization, Mr. McKim did not devote himself to raising money. But the cause called to itself friends and support under his administration.

During this six months the West has subscribed \$10,000.

It has sent back all the old teachers, and added six more.

It has done this with the least possible expense for machinery. All canvassers have been dismissed, and the Commission in the West depends wholly upon correspondence, the unpaid efforts of its Committee, and the personal labors of a single Secretary.

Finally, Mr. W. F. Mitchell having returned from England to take the Western Secretaryship, Mr. McKim has returned to his post in New-York, leaving in Chicago, to complete the work so well begun, a gentleman whose success in the past is the best warrant of his achievements in the future. Identified with the cause of education from his youth, equally successful as a teacher in the North, as a superintendent of education in the South, and as a public speaker in presenting the cause in England, he brings a warm heart, an experienced head, and a perfect familiarity with facts and details to this new department of his life-long labors, and needs to our Western friends no other introduction than his own name, no other letter of recommendation than the record of his own life.

DELAWARE.

THE first annual report of the Delaware Branch lies before us. This Association was organized by the friends of impartial education in the State by a public meeting held on the 27th day of December, 1866, and commenced its operations by the election of an Executive Board on the 9th of January following. An earnest appeal, from the pen of Bishop Lee, one of its active members, was issued to the public. A general agent, Mr. John G. Furey, was appointed, and an office opened in Wilmington, where the movement was inaugurated. The first school was opened in that city; in February, a second one was commenced at Dover; and, following in rapid succession, further schools were begun at sixteen other points in the State. Other schools were added at Wilmington, and, under an arrangement with the African School Association of that city, their premises on Orange street were transferred to the new organization, which pledged itself to open and maintain a school of a high order for colored people. This now affords the only provision for normal training of colored teachers in the State. The managers, in their report, bear public testimony to the efficient aid of Major-General Gregory, of the Bureau, under whose aid twelve school-houses have been erected in important lo-

calities; to the American Freedman's Commission, which has borne the expense of the salaries of a number of the teachers; and to Gov. Saulsbury, who, it is said, "gave to the President and Managers of this Association a full and patient hearing of their statements in regard to our plans and purposes; and, whilst he differed from us in judgment as regards the capacity of the colored man for education, assured us of his willingness that the experiment should be tried, and of his determination to protect us, in our peaceable endeavors to carry out the programme laid before him."

Both at New-Castle and at Dover appreciative citizens have contributed in land and money over seven hundred dollars for the erection of school-houses from material furnished by the Bureau.

The most gratifying feature in the report is the success which has attended the efforts of the Association to enlist the active coöperation of the colored people. They estimate the contributions of the freedmen toward tuition and school-books as over \$2,000, and a little over double that amount for the erection of school-buildings. The Association has always required the board of the teacher to be secured before undertaking the establishment of a school; and has collected and applied the funds through local trustees. The school property provided by the efforts of the Association, with the aid of the Bureau, is estimated at over \$11,000.

The following table shows the present attitude of the work in Delaware:

No.	Location.	Teacher.	Sustained by what Society.	When organized.
1.	Wilmington,.....	Colored,.....	Delaware Association,.....	January, 1867.
2.	".....	White,.....	".....	April, "
3.	".....	".....	N. Y. Am. F. U. Com.,.....	Oct., "
4.	".....	".....	".....	".....
5.	Dover,.....	Colored,.....	".....	February, "
6.	Seaford,.....	White,.....	Delaware Association,.....	April, "
7.	Smyrna,.....	Colored,.....	".....	".....
8.	Christiana,.....	".....	".....	".....
9.	Odessa,.....	".....	".....	".....
10.	Milford,.....	".....	N. Y. Am. F. U. Com.,.....	".....
11.	Laurel,.....	".....	Delaware Association,.....	May, "
12.	Georgetown,.....	".....	".....	".....
13.	New-Castle,.....	White,.....	N. Y. Am. F. U. Com.,.....	".....
14.	Milton,.....	Colored,.....	Delaware Association,.....	".....
15.	Newark,.....	".....	".....	June, "
16.	Del. City,.....	".....	".....	".....
17.	Lewes,.....	".....	".....	Oct. "
18.	Camden,.....	".....	N. Y. Am. F. U. Com.,.....	".....
19.	Newport,.....	".....	Delaware Association,.....	".....
20.	Williamsville,.....	".....	".....	January, 1868.
21.	Port Penn,.....	".....	".....	".....
(22.)	Wilmington Night School,.....	White and Col-ored,.....	".....	Nov. 1867.

3 and 4.—These are NORMAL SCHOOLS. Two Departments—Male and Female.

(22)—This is enumerated—though only TEMPORARY, that is, open during the late autumn and winter months. The attendance has been quite large, and is still pretty good. It has six teachers besides a superintendent.

We heartily congratulate our friends in Delaware on the courage with which they undertook, the faith with which they have prosecuted, and the success which they have achieved in their work.

OBITUARY.

[From The Anti-Slavery Reporter.]

We greatly regret to have to announce the unexpected death of our estimable coadjutor, Mr. Wilson Armistead, which took place on Tuesday, the 18th ult. In the deceased gentleman the African race have lost an earnest friend, the best energies of whose life may be said to have been spent in the endeavor to secure their liberties and rights, and to promote their welfare.

We join our English friends in expressing a

regret at the loss of one who was no less warmly esteemed on this side the ocean than on that; who, catholic in his sympathies, was one of those few men that belong to no nation, but to humanity, and who will be almost as much missed in America as he is in England.

[From the N. Y. Teacher and Am. Ed. Monthly, March, 1868.]

REV. J. B. Smith, M.D., died in New-Orleans, October 1st, of yellow fever. He was for some years a physician in Boston, but removed to New-Orleans during the war, where he became pastor of a Free Mission Baptist Church, and was an earnest and active friend of the freedmen's schools, and, as one of the new board of school directors, was endeavoring to affect a reorganization of the city schools on an equitable basis.

Madame Louise de Mortie died of yellow fever in New-Orleans, October 8th. She was born

in Norfolk, Va., in 1833, but received her education in Boston. In the autumn of 1862 she began her career as a public reader in Boston, and, after the issue of the Emancipation Proclamation, went to New-Orleans to labor for the education of the freedmen. She first gave lectures, and employed the proceeds in establishing an asylum for the freed children. Of this asylum she became matron, and devoted all her energy and talent to its support. She would not desert her post, and finally fell a victim to the fever.

New-York Branch.

AN APPEAL FROM TRENT CAMP.

MR. BURGHDOFF and his wife, two of our many teachers who belong to the M. E. Church, are laboring with great success in perhaps the most destitute part of our field. His letter may look enthusiastic to eyes that have never rested on the scenes among which he moves; but with these for a background, it seems neither too earnest nor too practical. We trust that there will be prompt and generous responses to his appeal.

"Last night THE FREEDMAN'S JOURNAL, so welcome at our house, came to hand, and among the many good things it contained was an acknowledgment of \$8 for my support from the Freedmen's Educational Society of Trent Camp, N. C. The amount is small, I know, but we are very much like the widow spoken of in Luke xxi. 1-4. It was all we had. Though the freedmen of Trent Settlement are very poor and destitute, it shows a spirit of self-reliance and a willingness on their part to help you in the support of a teacher among them. We intend that our educational society just started in Trent Camp shall be a success. They say they are willing to do what they can for my support as a teacher among them. They say many good things about the Commission, and speak in high terms of your kindness in sending them so many teachers. I often hear them say, 'Oh! I don't know what we would have done had it not been for the A. F. U. Commission; I wonder if any other society would have sent us teachers or not?'

"Let me say, the work commenced is not in vain. The seed sown through your instrumentality shall germinate and bear fruit forever. I am glad that, through the providence of God, I was sent here. I find the colored people here very, very poor. Yes, I believe there is no place in all the Southern States so poor as the Eastern part of North-Carolina, yet I find them here willing to do the best and most they can

to educate, to elevate, and ennoble their race. There is not a more docile race of men on earth. They are warm-hearted, faithful, sympathetic, possessed of great physical energy and power, and only require to be educated to make excellent citizens. The susceptibility of the freedmen to educational culture is surpassingly great. The freedmen of Trent Camp, as in every other place where I have been, show great anxiety for education. They embrace every opportunity for obtaining it. The educational progress has been very rapid and very marked. The first schools were held in old deserted churches, in abandoned hospitals, in old sheds, or under the shadow of a tree. The books in the beginning were but little better than the buildings; but a period of four years has brought a great change in the South. In many of the larger places, instead of sitting under the shadow of a tree, or taking some old abandoned shed, we have our freedmen's schools regularly graded, beginning with the primary and ending with the normal.

"The freedmen have everywhere proved enthusiastic in the cause of education. Many of them, by their industry, have acquired the means sufficient, if not to provide self-supporting schools, at least to coöperate in their support.

"I believe that the colored people will soon raise themselves up from their unhappy condition, and will contribute their full share to the common progress of humanity. Let them have the means of instruction. Let them have a truly religious education. Let them have the rights of men granted them, and they will become, in every way, in my opinion, good citizens and useful men. As to the schools, under the eye of the Commission in this region, all are doing well. I think our schools in Trent Camp will compare favorably with any of the colored schools South under the same disadvantages. The children are learning rapidly, and their eagerness to learn increases as they advance. It is no longer questionable that colored people learn, and send their children to school. Such aptness to learn I never saw. I have some little boys in my school, six, eight, and nine years old, that understand notation and numeration well. They can numerate and point off correctly to quintillions, and understand mental arithmetic well. We have a class of forty-four in grammar, who understand it well so far as they have gone. Their lesson for tomorrow is, 'What are the elements of a sentence?' *Clark's Gram.*, page 40. I have one go to the blackboard and put sentences in diagrams. The others bring it to me on paper.

I will send you a compound sentence put in diagram by a little boy only ten years old, which, for correctness and beauty of writing, is hard to beat, and you will say so when I tell you that this is the first year he has studied grammar.

"Such quickness is everywhere to be seen among the pupils. Miss Waugh has a boy she calls John, who came some sixty miles from the country to attend school, and, as he said, to get a little *instruction*, who, two months ago, only knew his letters, but is now reading finely in First Reader, and is quick to add small sums in addition. Such is the eagerness and such the aptness of the colored people.

"The schools in Newbern under your charge, with the Misses Roper, Adams, Williams, and O'Donnell for teachers, report equal encouragement and success.

"We are out of the Union down here, but we are trying hard to get back again. The freedmen, in defiance of fatigue, hardships, hunger, the threats of their employers, the arguments of brighter intellects than their own, the giving up of pleasant situations, do their duty at the polls, and aid much in the great work of reconstructing and placing North-Carolina back into the Union.

"The greatest want of the South is education for the masses and not for the few. Education is the only thing that can save the South. With it trade will be revived, industry will be quickened, the capacity of the freedmen will be shown, and their religion will be changed from one of *excessive emotion* to one of more intelligent appreciation of truth and principle.

"Blessed are those hearts who are aiding in this great work! And I cannot speak in too high terms of our own Society, the A. F. U. Commission, which commenced so early, and has done and is doing so much in the great work of educating the freedmen. I know it to be unsectarian. It knows no denominational differences. The Commission is coöperative, soliciting the aid of the freedmen and the planters. It knows no party, but, without distinction of race or color, works for popular education and elevation in the South, upon the broad basis of industry, education, and Christian morality. I speak of what I know. Our schools are managed with a system and thoroughness I have nowhere else found among the schools of the South. I understand that the Secretary, Rev. Crammond Kennedy, is out on a lecturing tour through the principal cities of New-York State, making appeals in behalf of the Commission and suffering freedmen. I hope the people will greet him kindly,

and respond nobly for the cause of which he speaks. I know, if all could journey through the South, and visit our schools, they would pause, and be astonished to see the eagerness upon the part of the pupils to learn; I know they would surely aid in the prosecution of the work. We must not let the work stop until we see a free-school system planted in every Southern State. We have commenced to bridge the chasm made wide by sin and slavery. We must finish the bridge. We are in sight of the promised land, but we have not reached it. To leave a work half done is not to do it at all. We beg the people of New-York State, and all our auxiliaries, contributors, and co-workers there not to stay their hands, not to weary now. There never was a time so hopeful as now. Those we have educated are turning about and educating others. There never was a time when the Commission needed your smile and means as now. Now is the time when every dollar given brings quick and sure returns. Friends of New-York, give of your means freely, and ask God's blessing upon us all, and the work will move on. Surely, there is no lack of means at home to meet all the educational wants of the freedmen! But what is wanted is the thinking, intelligent, Christian spirit to contribute.

"Would you give to the freedmen? Would you help to support the teachers who are already in the field, and those who are to be sent? the appropriate channel through which your noble contributions should be poured is the American Freedman's Union Commission. It has nearly four hundred teachers in the field, who are looking for your sympathy, and who must be paid. Many of them have no local societies to look after them; but the Commission, trusting in the goodness of the cause and the kindness of the people, have sent us on, expecting help from all our auxiliary societies. The times are hard, and getting harder, and I am afraid, if you relax your hold, the great work nobly begun will have to stop. God forbid that the machinery should lie idle for want of fuel, that the Commission should become inoperative because funds are not provided. The Commission has done a noble work the last year; it has sowed many precious seeds, and has reared many a monument which shall last throughout all time. I fear you can't read this. If you find any thing fit for JOURNAL, please let it appear when you can.

"Yours in the work,

"J. W. BURGHDOFF."

VIRGINIA.

FROM MISS LIZZIE PARSONS, RICHMOND.

No one who has been here before and known the difficulty of bringing the schools together on stormy days, or after a holiday, can fail to observe the marked change this year. I have never seen less than forty in my room on the stormiest day, though there have been days when I would not have blamed them had none come. The interest of the parents is almost daily demonstrated. In cases of insubordination I sometimes send for the father or mother, in order to secure their coöperation. A few days ago, an old grandmother, who has an orphan child in my room, came to me, saying that she felt so bad when she heard Lizzie had been troublesome, she had walked a mile to tell me she would not allow it, and beg me not to send her away. Then the struggle they have to meet the tax and purchase books is almost painful. I visited one family the father of which had twice lost a situation, first, on account of voting, and then in consequence of the snow and ice. They have four children of their own, and have taken an invalid sister and her son to care for. The mother has striven in every way to get along without aid, till, at last, one of the children told me she had eaten nothing for two days. Yet they have never once failed to bring me their wood money. I gave them tickets for soup, and now they have work again. One boy, who was unable to buy books when his class was advanced, remained away a month, until he had earned nearly enough, then came with eyes beaming with joy to secure the books, although he could not yet come to school, as his job was unfinished. Two days after, he resumed his seat, and is studying hard to catch up with his class. I don't like to take money from those who earn it so hard; but it is a great pleasure to see the sacrifices they make so cheerfully.

NORTH-CAROLINA.

FROM MRS. J. W. BURGHDUFF, TRENT CAMP.

In great haste I will try to pen a few lines to you. We have so much on our hands that we hardly know what to do first. Our schools are prospering finely, but not increasing much. Many of our pupils must soon leave to go to work. One young man who came sixty miles and boarded here in the Camp in order to go to school, will leave to-morrow. He feels very badly about it, but says, if he can not get the people to do something about a school where he lives, he shall be back again next fall. A boy and girl who have come across the Trent every day in a boat, must leave soon, to go to farm-

ing. Quite a number have already gone out into the country and commenced operations; so that, I think, we shall not be so crowded with scholars, and can do more for what we have. Mr. Fisk, Superintendent of the State, and Mr. Smith, Principal of the Normal School at Raleigh, visited us last week. They expressed themselves as much pleased with the schools. Mr. Smith was looking for candidates for the Normal School. We have two whom he thought he would take. One of them, Willis Sumner, a very fine boy and a good scholar, will go in about three weeks. He has had to leave day-school and go to work to get something to go with. He has no father, and is the only dependence of his mother. He ought to be helped to some clothes. Could you not send us a box of clothing and in it something for him? He needs shirts, pants, and, in fact, every thing that any young man needs to be comfortable and respectable. He is seventeen years of age, and hopes to be prepared to receive a commission in a year. We have, in our night-school, a man who is very intelligent. He reads well in Third Reader, studies arithmetic, grammar, and geography, and writes quite well. He wishes to prepare himself for teaching. He has but one arm, having lost the other, I believe, in the army. I think he would do very well to teach at Cole Camp, if you had the means to pay him a small salary and would commission him. Mrs. Thomas is taking lessons in grammar, arithmetic, and geography, and trying to prepare herself better for her position. I think she improves greatly in the management of her school. She has a very teachable spirit, and is anxious to be corrected whenever she errs. I think she will yet make an excellent teacher. The suffering here does not abate. The people can get little or no work, and those who do work get so little for it that they can not support themselves. You said in your letter to Miss Waugh, that such scenes as we described must be heart-rending, and so they are. I sometimes feel almost discouraged, for the little that we can do is nothing when compared with what there is to be done. I have been visiting several days in succession, and every day have seen new scenes of suffering. One day I found a sickly woman with no clothing but a few old rags, which hung about two inches below the knees, while the remainder of her limbs and feet were naked. She had no bed but the naked floor. I took her home with me, and gave her a dress, skirt, and sack, which was all I had for her. I wish you could have seen how thankful she was. Day before yesterday I found two women, one of whom was sick, and

five little children hovering over a few embers and about a pint of parched corn. Yesterday I found three little ones all alone, the eldest, about eight years of age, holding a young babe, while another, about two years old, lay in the ashes. They had not a spark of fire. I asked where their mother was, and the eldest burst into tears and said, "Gone over town to get some meal." "How long has she been gone?" said I. "Since morning," said the child. "What makes you cry?" I asked. "I am so hungry; we have had nothing to eat to-day." I went into the next hut, and sent a boy to make them a fire and carry them some wood. The mother came before I left, and had succeeded in borrowing a quart of meal. They had neither clothes nor bedding sufficient to protect them from the cold. The children had not enough to hide their nakedness. This morning I gave them some little garments for the second child, and an old bed-quilt, but had nothing for the rest. Oh! how I wish I could portray the wants and sufferings of these people in such a way that the people at the North could understand them! but words are meagre things. There is no satisfaction in writing, for I cannot depict them. I never saw or dreamed of such suffering as this. We are daily thronged with famishing ones begging for bread. We do what we can for them, but what can we do when hundreds are in the same condition? I have nearly sustained one family for the past three weeks, where the husband is sick and the wife has a young babe. I should feel comforted in this, if this was the only suffering family. There are a great many sick and infirm who have no support, and we have found several cases where they had nothing in the house to eat, nor comfortable bedding. But it is useless for me to write more, so I will close.

FROM MISS FANNY PERKINS, ELIZABETH CITY.

I will tell you something about the school. We have had the largest attendance this month, and they have been very punctual and prompt. We have one class of four in the Fifth Reader, a class of ten in the Fourth, and three classes in the Third; of these there are nearly forty, about one third of whom have been promoted to their present classes since the first of January. We have three classes in the Second Reader, of about thirty scholars. There are only four in the alphabet, and the rest of the one hundred and thirty-five are in the primer and First Reader. We have three classes in geography, five classes in written arithmetic, and six classes in mental arithmetic, three of which are studying both arithmetics. The advanced class are

nearly to common fractions, and they have been thus far very thoroughly. The accommodations for writing are very poor, as we have no desks; but we have them write as much as we can. We give the smaller ones copies on their slates as soon as they can read in the Second Reader, and they learn to write very easily, indeed. The school continues to increase in interest, and I am well satisfied with the improvement in each branch of study. There are about sixteen who attend the night-school now, the greater part of whom are men. The most of them read quite well in the Second and Third Readers. We give them lessons in reading, spelling, writing, and ciphering. It is a pleasure to teach them, they are so anxious to learn. We had a larger night-school, but some that came at first have been sick, and this has been a hard winter, (the hardest for 15 years, an aged uncle told me to-day,) with such dark and rainy nights and such muddy streets; but some of the pupils come four miles, frequently in the rain, and are very punctual. One of them, who had been a slave, was telling me, the other day, how he learned his letters. It was during the war, and he was up in the country at work; a rumor that the colored people were to be freed reached him, and he thought that if he was to become free he wanted to know something; so that night he got some one to say the alphabet over to him, and he sat up all night studying it over; when it was time for him to go to work, he had learned three letters. After working all day, he sat up half of the next night, and mastered them all. He has a family, and has had little chance to learn since, but he can read quite nicely, and is learning to write and cipher. Another said he learned to spell before the war, by hearing white teachers in their schools giving out words and the scholars spelling them. He could spell long, hard words before he knew a letter.

SOUTH-CAROLINA.

FROM MRS. L. B. WEST, COLUMBIA.

THIS month I have about fifty-three girls and boys, eleven of whom are reading in the Second Reader, and studying Monteith's First Geography; thirty are reading in the First Reader, and the remainder are yet in the primer, but will soon go into the First Reader class. Each pupil is exercised every day in mental arithmetic. I have, as yet, none who write with pen and ink, but all write and print on their slates. I teach geography orally to those who do not study it. My devotional exercises I vary. Sometimes I repeat a Bible story; at others, I occupy the time by teaching them

texts of Scripture which I think they can comprehend, and sometimes, again, I read and explain a part of a chapter which I think will both interest them and do them good. During the prayer they all reverently bow their heads, and are exceedingly quiet and respectful. I allow them to criticise each other's language, which they do by raising their hands when any one speaks ungrammatically in the school-room. I find this beneficial in more ways than one, as it not only assists them to speak correctly, but also enables them to observe closely. My heart is in this work, and I never expect to be happier than I am now. My reading classes are much interested in the pauses, now, and pretty generally understand their names and uses. I think our schools are all flourishing and well conducted. Our church at Castile has sent me a box of clothing for the freedmen; and since I began writing this, I have received two letters, telling me of three barrels of clothing that are to be sent me, two from the Presbyterian Society of Castile, and one from East-Gainesville. I am more than rejoiced to hear this, as it saddens me to see so much suffering, and still know how utterly powerless I am to help. One week ago to-day, Miss Beeman and I visited a poor white woman who is in the last stages of consumption, and such entire misery I never witnessed before. The rude bedstead on which she lay was the only article of furniture in the room. She was covered with filthy rags, and had nothing in the house to eat. We also called on a poor colored woman who lived near. The only way of effecting an entrance into her miserable hovel was through a small aperture cut in one side. We did not attempt an entrance. We looked in, that was sufficient. The complete absence of any comfort was certainly appalling.

FLORIDA.

FROM MISS C. B. BENT, GAINESVILLE.

My school has increased largely since I wrote you, as you will see by my February report; I presume many of the new scholars will drop off in a month or two. It is now larger than it was last year, and I taught alone the whole year; but now the scholars are more advanced, which, of course, makes more work. I have two departments, Primary and Grammar. In the Primary Department there are between sixty and seventy scholars, twenty-five of whom are learning the alphabet, two classes reciting from the school tablets, and four classes reading in the primer. I teach any to write who can afford a slate and pencil. I have general exercises every

day; sometimes in geography and sometimes in spelling or arithmetic. Every Friday I spend an hour in general exercises in both schools. In my Grammar School I have four classes in reading, two in geography, three in arithmetic, and three in spelling. Half an hour is devoted to writing each day. I have one scholar in grammar, hence the name Grammar School. I am well satisfied with the progress that the children are making, though I cannot boast of any wonders being accomplished. They seem to advance gradually, and whatever knowledge they acquire is by hard study. I can boast of some very smart, ambitious scholars, with good heads and good hearts too. I am free to say that I am proud of them. I have a very large Sabbath-school, composed mostly of children. I teach them as a class; have general exercises entirely. I suppose you wonder if my labors are confined to the school-room. Not entirely. I frequently spend an hour at night in visiting the colored people. I find it a very pleasant way to regale myself after the duties of the day are ended. Saturdays I also visit and distribute clothing. My Newburyport friends are very generous in the clothing line. I have received two barrels from them this year; also one from Mrs. Barnes, of Norwich. Her daughter taught with me in Gainesville two years ago, and although not now in the field, her interest in the work still continues. She insists that this school shall still be called "our school." Last year she sent two prizes to the two best scholars—a gold ring and a gold pencil. This year she will send two more. I have never seen the time when I considered it judicious to open a night-school. In the first place, I have had no comfortable room to teach in, having no stove at all in my school-room, and then my time has been so much occupied during the day that I have not felt it my duty to teach evenings. But just as soon as the weather gets to be a little warmer, if I have assistance, I want to open a school for adults. I will send you a letter written by one of my little boys. You may be interested to know what progress my scholars are making in penmanship:

GAINESVILLE FLA. Nov. the 21 1867.

MY DEAR TEACHER I with Pleasure take this Present opportunity on my Self to write you A few lines To let you know how I Am I am well at this time Pleasant and Hoping these few Lines May find you the same I was very sorry that I gave you So much trouble the other Day, I will not do it Again I hope you will have no more trouble with me as long as you stay Here I hope you will get A. Place I hope you will not go off to Jacksonville but

stay here an be our School Teacher I will try my best to be A good boy and obey my teacher rules You must answer my not if you Please

Your Sencerious Scholar,

JIMMY F CHESTNUT

RECEIPTS.

BY EDWARD F. DAVISON, TREASURER, FROM FEB. 20TH to MARCH 16TH, 1868.

From Agents.

Rev. R. Pierce, Feb. 24th, \$305.53; March 2d, \$100; March 16, \$76.64. Rev. E. Brett, Feb. 24th, \$100; March 2d, \$48.80; March 2d, \$100; March 16th, \$51. Rev. W. R. Long, Feb. 24th, \$275.14; Feb. 29th, \$426.09; Feb. 29th, \$129.54; March 5th, \$30; March 16th, \$130; March 16th, \$300. Rev. E. Colton, Feb. 29th, \$100; March 2d, \$60.33; March 5th, \$37.07; March 16th, \$15.

From Auxiliary Societies.

Chittenango, \$47.30; Cherry Creek, \$3.50; Montclair, N. J., \$163.53; Syracuse, \$129; Chenango Co., \$44.15; Vernon, \$5; Claverack, \$50; Rose, \$46.33; Wolcott, \$26.08; Newburyport, \$100; Syracuse, \$100; Stockton, \$3.

Miscellaneous.

Samuel G. Ward, Esq., N. Y., \$100; Wm. Bowne, Esq., N. Y., \$50; Jos. Eaton, for Journal, \$1; Mrs. E. Hawley, Binghamton, \$3; Ladies' Fair in Auburn, \$460; Mrs. H. Chesebro, Naples, \$5; Union Commission, through G. C. Ward, Esq., \$300; Chas. B. Wood, Esq., N. Y., \$35; Peter Cooper, Esq., N. Y., \$35; Premium from Insurance Company, \$173.50; Mary Per Lee, Norwich, N. Y., \$10; Mrs. A. Lathrop, Carthage, \$5; Cong. ch., Carthage, \$5; Freedmen's Bureau, \$150; Rev. W. R. Long, \$30; Plymouth, N. C., \$5; Jacksonville, Fla., \$7.75; Anderson C. H., S. C., \$16; Jona. R. Lee, Sheridan, N. Y., \$10; Mrs. A. B. Verplanck, \$5.

Pennsylvania Branch.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S BRANCH.

OWING to my prolonged stay in Washington, and the absence of any report in the mean time, the following will cover the ground of the two past months, namely, January and February.

When entering upon the new year, it was feared that there would be a great falling off in our resources, partly owing to the stress in monetary affairs, which made it necessary for some of our hitherto liberal contributors to reduce or wholly withdraw their subscriptions, and partly from the reaction in interest to which any long-continued work of philanthropy is liable. Like prudent householders, we took counsel together how to retrench our expenditures at home, and how to make the most of our diminished resources in the field.

The result was a determination to give up our own packing and storing-room, one of the office-rooms of the Pennsylvania Freedman's Union Commission, and the clerk employed by the gentlemen of that Association; also to discontinue the publication of the Pennsylvania Freedman's Bulletin as a separate organ, using rather the American Freedman as the vehicle for matters of special interest.

In the field, it was proposed, instead of di-

minishing the number of our schools, to introduce the principle of making them partly self-supporting whenever it became possible. About this time Gen. Howard communicated to the gentleman of this Association the fact that there were forty school-houses in Maryland ready for occupation, and greatly urged the Pennsylvania Branch of the Commission to send them twenty-three teachers.

Concurrent with this, it was thought advisable to relinquish our Georgetown school, where we continued to support eight teachers and a superintendent of schools, to the authorities of the District of Columbia, who were willing and able to assume it.

In Maryland, schools were placed upon the footing of being partially self-sustaining, so that the cost to this Association was something less than half that formerly required for each teacher.

I am glad to have to report that we have already ten new schools in Maryland in successful operation, as the result of the last two months' work. During the same time we have assumed the support of twelve schools in the Lynchburg District, Va. So that, instead of contracting the scope of our work, as we had feared, we have increased the number of our teachers from forty-three to fifty-nine.

The principle of making our schools by degrees self-supporting cannot fail to recommend itself. It is not possible that the North, by private charity, should continue this work of education indefinitely on any large scale. The burden must, by degrees, be shifted upon the shoulders of those who are benefited, as they become able to bear it. And on the other hand, that they are able even partially to aid in maintaining their schools, is an evidence of increased enlightenment and prosperity.

Other changes have been made in the Educational Department. Ann Cummings, at Roxboro, N. C., has been adopted by the Church of the Holy Trinity, which makes the fourth teacher supported through us by this very liberal church. Lockhaven, Pa., has assumed the support of Miss Rollins, at Charleston, S. C.; Scranton, Pa., that of Miss Haines, at Liberty, Va.; Bellefonte, that of Miss Thomas, at the same place.

The correspondence from our teachers is more than usually interesting, the result of the very admirable plan put in practice by Miss Jackson, Chairman of the Educational Committee. Through her suggestion, each member of the Committee entered into correspondence with a certain number of teachers, covering the whole ground of the work, for counsel and sympathy,

rather than for mere statistical reports. The result has been some very charming letters, giving graphic accounts of the every day life of our teachers in their sometimes far off and isolated homes.

I have chosen to speak of our teachers first, because during the past year our work, as a Woman's Branch, has in great measure changed its character, from being merely a supply department, to that of education.

In the mean while, we have not neglected to appeal constantly for clothing and materials to supply the wants of the suffering.

Our Corresponding Secretary and her aids are indefatigable in their correspondence and in the sending of circulars, showing the scope and nature of our work, and pleading with all our well-wishers for help.

In the past two months, letters and circulars have been sent and received. In almost every instance, our supplies have been the result of these appeals.

The Committee on Receiving and Forwarding Goods report 43 boxes and packages received, valued at \$1,555.83, and 25 boxes forwarded—namely:

To Virginia, 12 boxes; to Mississippi, 3; to South-Carolina, 4; North-Carolina, 2; Washington, D. C., 2; Alabama, 1; and Tennessee, 1.

If we could follow to its destination each box, and see the rejoicing and hear the fervent prayers of gratitude that go up to God from the needy and suffering, these figures would possess for us a touching interest,

Our Treasurer reports: "Receipts, \$437; expenditures, \$172; leaving a balance to Treasury of \$265," which is mostly appropriated to educational purposes.

From this hasty glance at the condition of our Association during two months, we cannot but feel encouraged in our work. The number of our schools has increased. We have been able to send aid and clothing to meet every tale of distress.

Thanks and blessings have come up to us from the poor and needy of almost every Southern State. Our Treasury, like the widow's cruise, is never wholly empty, and there still remains a great vitality and interest in our corps of willing workers at these rooms.

We have reason to thank God for his blessing upon our work, and, in the faith that we are co-workers with Him in bringing up a people out of bondage, take courage and gird up our loins for new effort.

MARY ROSE SMITH,
President Women's Branch.

VIRGINIA.

FROM M. R. LLOYD, FINCASTLE.

It affords me great pleasure to mark the progress of our colored friends in this part of the field, and to contrast the time when Mr. Stradling and myself first came to this county with the present. I must acknowledge that a more melancholy couple would have been hard to find, not so much on account of the bitter opposition we had to encounter, as the destitution and depravity of those we were sent to instruct. Our schools were hardly opened before they were crowded with ragged, dirty children, apparently without one idea; and when the school closed for the day, we could see them in groups, singing and dancing in their strange, barbarous way. For a long time I feared our efforts would be of little avail, but the change for the better during the past year must speak for itself. Last Christmas the children urged me to give them only two days' vacation, and I was compelled to consent to a holiday of only three days, quite demolishing an arrangement I had made to visit some of my friends. This session most of them can read, and as soon as they can do that, their thirst for knowledge becomes uncontrollable, and they are willing to make almost any sacrifice to gratify it. Many of them told me they would be satisfied if they only had bread and water while they could go to school; but I am happy to say they have plenty to eat in this district, although money is very scarce. Our Sunday-school, Lyceum, and Council have made the adults here temperate, thoughtful, and good citizens, and it is a noted fact, that no stranger comes to this town without remarking the good conduct of the colored people. We have a large church used for school purposes, and a house near the county poor-house has been built for the people of that institution to worship in, and we are having suitable benches made for both buildings, and hope to have them soon ready for use.

FROM MILLIE PHELPS, LYNCHBURG.

A very pleasing item of your last letter is the promise of a speedy supply of shoes, which are sadly needed now. The winter here is unusually severe, and there has been a greater fall of snow than for many years, and, through the continuance of cold, it still remains. The slightest approach to a thaw is accompanied with a depth and quality of mud truly distressing to poor uncovered feet. Allow me to thank you most gratefully in behalf of these suffering people for your kindness in relieving one of

their many wants at the most opportune moment. The clothing has all been distributed, and, as you desired, the most destitute were first remembered, and I trust I have made a right distribution of the articles. I have tried with almost painful anxiety so to do, and many wasted faces have lightened with smiles, and many hearts burned with thankfulness to you and the other noble ladies of the Aid Association. As I write, I am frequently interrupted by appeals for shoes and clothing. To furnish all from our box is impossible; and so, with a heart perhaps as heavy as theirs, I must deny some who are in real want for those far lower in the scale of wretchedness. It will be a terrible ordeal, when I have nothing more, to turn from their pitiful supplications and ragged figures; and to that point I am almost come. One can form no adequate idea of the suffering to be relieved here unless in the midst of it. The city is full of wretchedness, and not how little to contribute, but *how much*, is the ever great anxiety. I am *so thankful* to you for the box. Could you see the brightening faces and hear the murmured thanks I have seen and heard, you would feel most amply rewarded for your benevolent efforts. Be encouraged in your noble work. You are laying up treasures in heaven. You are helping to clothe Christ's little ones. Do not think me unthankful and presumptuous if I ask for *another* box to distribute to these poor unfortunates. They throng the alleys and streets, they are crowded in damp and smoky huts, and in comfortless rooms—the sick, the half clad, and the starving; and it is painfully true that all the help given them is but a drop, as it were, in an ocean of misery. They need fuel and food full as much as clothing. Many are out of employment, and many not able to work at all. Imagine the destitution and suffering. There is no help extended them from the people here, too many poor whites being left houseless and starving. The other day a wealthy lady in the city sent two colored girls to us with a note stating that they were in absolute need of clothing and had an aged grandmother to support and a little brother. She pays these girls two dollars each per month, and I could not repress a feeling of indignation that this rich woman should send to us the girls she was so glaringly defrauding. If there could only be a small fund appropriated to help those who are really freezing and starving! I breathe this to myself so often that it will find expression here. I should fill pages were I to record the tales of suffering, most painfully true, which my own experience enables me to know. If

the people of the North (those who rest easily in opulence) would give but a little of their incomes, it would buy for them something better than gold or jewels. We know you of the Aid Association are doing all you can. There are other cities and villages where help is as much needed as here. We know this, and *are all thankful*. God bless you for your benevolence.

FROM E. L. HAINES, LIBERTY.

We are pleasantly located in Liberty, with the beautiful peaks of Otter on the north, and the gentle, sloping hills of Virginia on the south, while the queer little town lies just above us. Our room is cosy and comfortable, and our school-house, only a hundred yards distant, is light, airy, and pleasant, much better than we expected to find; but what shall I tell you of the dusky children that greet us daily with a glad "good morning," whose countenances beam with joy and trust? I can truly say we love them and are proud of them, and thank God for sending us here to labor. The luxuries of home, the fascinations of society, do not cause us to regret our chosen course. Even the most tempting letters from our home friends have not elicited one single longing desire to be with them. Our scholars are smart, attentive, and adapt themselves to their studies with an earnestness I have never before seen. We wish every day for the hours to lengthen out, they are only half long enough. Our first class are ready for higher studies, and they must have them. Our school is divided, Miss T. occupying one room, and I the other. As the hum of the recitations mingles, together with the restlessness of more than a hundred children, you can imagine how much we wish for a partition between these rooms. Captain Lebaun has applied to the Bureau to have this done for us, but, we fear, with little success. Soon after our arrival some of the colored brethren offered to whip our scholars for us, and govern the unruly generally. We thanked them, and asked them if they did not think that system could be bettered. They shook their heads doubtfully. "Didn't believe their young ones could get on without flogging. They had done got used to it." We answered, we would try something they were *not* used to. They thanked us gratefully, and hoped we might find their children "a little like white children." Oh! that we had the strength of Hercules and the wisdom of Minerva, to lead them on to the light!

On Saturday nights, quite a large Union League meets in our school-room. Every week,

after Sunday-school, the colored church is held here, Methodist and Baptist alternately. Through the week we have morning, afternoon, and night-schools; so you see we turn four walls and a roof to good account. The rebel population have been exceedingly bitter against the school and its teachers, but have, in no wise, disturbed us. We have only been out in the town once, and were everywhere received with the greatest courtesy. It was very pleasant to get Miss Baldwin's letter. We are always glad to hear from you in Philadelphia. We received the box of garden-seeds yesterday, and shall delight many a needy one with its contents. We hear you purpose making us a visit, and hope you will come soon.

SOUTH-CAROLINA.

FROM LAURA M. TOWNE, ST. HELENA.

As our circle of teachers are all personal friends of James Mott, his loss was felt here not only as a loss to the public and to our freedmen, but to ourselves.

He had been so kind to each one of us, in his own quiet, unassuming way, that we all feel we shall miss that kindness when we go North again.

Miss Lydia Scofield thought the freedmen ought to know something of their benefactor; so they were called together in our little village church last Sunday, and it was full to overflowing.

After the elders had sung some hymns and offered the usual prayer, Miss Martha Scofield, though still not strong after her illness, read from the desk a selection of verses, which was made by Ellen Murray, with her intimate knowledge of the Bible, and they were singularly appropriate. Then Miss Lydia Scofield spoke to the people, telling of the faithful testimony against slavery borne by the sect of Friends; of James Mott's life-long work in the cause of the suffering; of some of his collaborators, and others; of the light their lives should throw upon the duties and obligations of the newly freed.

It was a very beautiful address, and was listened to with attention and emotion.

Hastings Garret, one of the prominent freedmen here, spoke well of the gratitude the freedmen owe to such a friend as they now met to "*funeralize*," (to use his own word,) and the desire they all feel to be told of such friends, and keep them in lasting remembrance.

I think if either Mr. or Mrs. Mott could have been present at this simple proof of their good work from those for whom their lives were spent, they would not have felt that they had

worked in vain. These people standing freed by the moral power of the Motts and such as they—eagerly hearing of their benefactors, and growing nobler in contemplating their self-sacrificing lives, cherishing their names as those of dear friends, and promising to grow better and wiser for their sakes—were fruition indeed of the labor of love and duty, undertaken with little hope or expectation of such early fruits. After the meeting was dismissed, Hastings, with his usual appreciation of opportunities, spoke of the necessity for education, and closed with an exhortation to rich and poor to come and join this friendly Pennsylvania Society, which had for so many years helped them in many ways, to come forward at once and assist in the support of the schools, each putting in according to his means. He then said the ladies could tell them better than he could what steps they should take, and the reasons why they should come forward at once. He made a wave of the hand, as of reference to me, and sat down. I, as Superintendent of Schools, then said, in few words, that Northern charity had given them schools long enough, and that they should do what they were able as soon as possible; that they would find it much more economical to cooperate with societies at the North willing to help them, than to wait till those societies had withdrawn, and then endeavor to support schools alone. Miss Martha Scofield then spoke, most earnestly and eloquently, upon the duty of parents toward their children in the matter of education. Then the elders and principal men rose, and pledged themselves to use all their influence with the people to raise funds, and to contribute largely themselves, as soon as they could. Hastings, well knowing that none of them have money now, and that this zeal and good-will would have time to evaporate before the next crop brought its market value in money, immediately proposed that they should set apart a piece of land, work it faithfully, and devote all its produce to schools. The plan was left for future consideration, because one of the elders remembered that it was Sunday and the house of God, and it was best to go no further in it on this occasion. Uncle Liah, who had previously spoken, had said that they were all poor, and each could do but little, but this was a work for many. It must be as it was at Indian Hill, where that great burial-mound was raised by each Indian throwing just one handful of earth on it every time he passed. Uncle Aleck said, Should each man regard only his own children, and forget all others? Should they leave that poor neighbor widow to strug-

gle with her whole gang of children, and give them no chance for a free schooling? But for all this, I do not believe a cent can be raised this winter, and I hope that before next year the State Legislature will have established free schools. My only hope of this, however, is in the black suffrage, for then the community will be wise enough to demand it and obtain it; but if the Southern whites again have exclusive power, good-by to all hope of free schools. Then the mass of ignorance that will collect in parts of the country inaccessible to Northern school-teachers will be a ferment of the most troublesome kind for years to come, and the Government will be constantly in danger from the mischief brewing in it. The negroes *will seek* instruction, and if they cannot get it otherwise, will pay for it. They cannot tell good teaching from bad; their limited means will necessitate cheap teachers; only poor Southerners can afford to teach here at such rates, and, consequently, only Southern ideas and Southern culture, of the kind described by Olmstead, will be communicated. A good system of free schools, established by Legislature, would secure the State to good order and future allegiance to government and common sense. What a mistake not to leave the power in hands that will be strong in holding on to this long-desired object! The whites do not want it, and will not have it, will not be taxed to support such a system for the black population; for blacks predominate in this State, and in country places there would not be enough white children to form schools. We are having heavy rains; the whole island is submerged. We drive nearly half the way to school through water, and sometimes it is so deep that the horses are unwilling to go through it. I hope it will not continue so wet, or what will become of next year's crop? For four years now it has been either extremely dry or very wet, and we are weary wishing for a good favorable season, moderate in all things, which will set the people up in prosperity, and enable them to support schools, etc., etc. We are all well. We have, notwithstanding the rainy days, the largest average attendance that we ever had. It is no use to regard the weather, for if we did, we should not teach more than half the time. Our children come dripping and cold through the northeast storms. Some of them walk five, even six miles, and are rarely absent.

FROM E. A. HUNN, SEASIDE.

We were delighted with the box of clothing and material which you sent for our sewing-school. I should have written to

you sooner, but have been waiting to get it fairly under way. An afternoon is set apart in each week for sewing, and as the work is all cut and basted beforehand, considerable can be accomplished in that time. The girls are perfectly delighted with it; and although all are novices in the necessary acquirement, they take hold readily, and are anxious to be taught. The calico is being made into garments for the girls, each one having the article she makes; the muslin will be made up for the boys by sisters or relatives who are pupils. I really think they would be willing to lend a helping hand themselves, so interested do they seem; but the time spent in sewing by the girls, is devoted to exercises in spelling and arithmetic by the boys, who oftentimes wonder why they cannot learn to sew too. The crash made thirty towels, which were hemmed by, and given to, some of our smaller girls, as rewards for clean hands and faces. Our school is progressing finely, the working season has commenced, and I fear our average will be smaller. Great as the necessity is for them to learn to work, I dislike vacancies in my first and best classes. One of my most advanced girls told me a few days since, she went in the field by daylight, that her work might be finished by school-time, which is ten o'clock; she is diligent and studious, as many are whom I have the pleasure of teaching. Our long-promised school-house, we hope, will soon be completed; we have found it very uncomfortable part of the winter teaching in the rooms we now occupy.

TENNESSEE.

FROM C. N. BUCHANAN, MURFREESBORO.

At the request of Mr. Buchanan, I write, returning many thanks for the box of clothing. It came most opportunely. Some of the members of the normal class, suffering for want of clothes, were on the point of leaving, but the timely arrival of the box relieved their present necessities, and enabled us to keep them. I have a fine class of eighteen, male and female, ranging in age from 14 to 33 years. But these people are yet very poor, and those who come to school are obliged to work early and late for the chance to come. Some of them have been afflicted with coughs and pneumonia, brought on, I have reason to believe, from exposure to cold on account of insufficient clothing. I have given away every article of my own wardrobe which I could spare, but, during the winter, my heart has often been made to ache by the exhibition of suffering which I had no power to relieve. I was casting about in my mind for some means to obtain a box from my own per-

sonal friends, when the box came so opportunely from Philadelphia.

One little girl, to whom I gave some articles, could only express her pleasure by her eyes, until finally she found voice to say, "Mrs. Buchanan, I am so much obliged to you!" "Thank God, dear Mary," I said, "and the kind friends in Philadelphia." "I do, I do," she said; "when you write, please tell them so, and give my love to them." Dear child! she was just on the point of leaving school, and hiring out, when the clothing came. Judge of her surprise and pleasure. I thought if the kind friends who sent the things could only hear this little Mary read, and see the compositions she writes, they would feel abundantly repaid for all their trouble. In reading, her pronunciation is so correct, and her intonations so peculiarly sweet, that it is a pleasure to listen. She read "Jephtha's Daughter," by N. P. Willis, at a Sabbath-school exhibition the other evening, and thrilled the hearts of all who listened. She is only 14 years old, but is one of our most promising normal pupils. Most of my pupils are ambitious students. One girl, 14 years old, walks three and a half miles to come to school, and when there, she is "as bright as a dollar." I open school at 9 o'clock, keeping until nearly 1 o'clock, with a recess of about fifteen minutes long. We also have an afternoon session of about two hours and a half. In the morning, after half an hour in devotional exercises, we have writing, geography, and written arithmetic. In the latter study they delight to excel. My first class has finished division of compound numbers, and can explain all the principles and examples accurately to that place. This study is varied every other day by mental arithmetic. In the afternoon we have Willson's Third and Fourth Readers, grammar, and spelling. We have also paid some attention to physiology and the History of the United States. In spelling they are very ambitious to have perfect lessons. The words are first written on slates and the black-board, with the proper marks placed over the vowels. These are then corrected and the lesson spelled orally, and finally each word is spelled by the whole class in concert, by its elementary sounds.

In the reading classes they are very critical, not allowing the slightest incorrectness to pass unnoticed. Thus, "line upon line and precept upon precept," their minds are gradually unfolding. The time passes pleasantly in the school-room, and I believe we are all very happy there.

We have an interesting Sabbath-school, of

which Mr. Caff, a young colored man and one of the normal class, is superintendent. In his opening prayer he never fails to remember "our kind friends at the North who are giving of their substance for the elevation of this downtrodden race; may their own souls be abundantly rewarded," etc.

Politics have been raging very high in Mar-freesboro lately, owing to the spring elections, which take place to-day. The majority of the colored people will vote the radical ticket, though some, I regret to say, have been frightened from it by the "Ku Klux," a secret organization composed of ex-rebel soldiers, who go about at night masked and armed—their object being to frighten colored men, and, if possible, drive away Union people.

Rev. N. B. Frierson, colored pastor of the colored Baptist church here, is a patriotic and Christian man. "Stand by your friends," I heard him say to his congregation last Sabbath. "I want to impress it upon the minds of you all to stand by the North—stand by those friends who have done so much for you, and have confidence in the teachers." He repeated with emphasis, "Stand by the teachers!"

The longer I labor among the freedmen, the more I feel it a privilege to do so, the more I feel that it is a work God will speedily bless. They have been oppressed, degraded, downtrodden, but I believe they are a people whom the Lord will yet delight to honor. For have they not been faithful—have they not waited prayerfully, patiently, trustfully for the day of their deliverance. And oh! to see how eager they are for knowledge, how eager and how appreciative! To be a teacher among them is indeed a privilege, and it is my daily prayer that I may not prove unworthy of my high trust.

Once more allow me, on behalf of those who have been made the recipients of your bounty, to express my heartfelt thanks. May the Lord bless you all who are aiding this noble work, and "may his banner over you still be love."

ALABAMA.

FROM A. W. MCCULLOUGH, HUNTSVILLE.

I SEND you the report of the Westchester School for the month of February. The whole number enrolled this month is one hundred and six, with a daily average of ninety-three. Twenty-six left school this month, while twenty-three new ones were admitted, more applying than we thought it expedient to admit. At this season of the year, when the preparations for a crop are being made, there are many changes among the freedmen seeking work in other localities. Our primary class in arithmo-

tic has mastered the tables, and is able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide. The advance class is in fractions, and has a pretty good idea of them. The highest reading-class uses McGuffey's Fifth Reader. We have classes from the Fifth to the First Reader, and a primer class. The pupils are very anxious to be promoted from one class to another; this promotion is the only criterion by which their parents can judge of their progress, and the promise of promotion is a good incentive to study. There is a lively interest in the geography class; they study hard in school, but, generally speaking, no assistance can be given them in their studies at home. I can only repeat the old story, that times are hard, and the freedmen are lamentably poor. The poor whites are no better off. They have opened a school here for the white children, whose parents or guardians are not able to pay for their schooling. There are ninety pupils enrolled in this school. Such a school was much needed, and may be the means of doing incalculable good, even though the motives for conducting it are not pure. Here is a quotation from a *call* for friends to support it: "While the Federal Government, through the Freedman's Bureau and Northern missionaries, is educating the negroes to the total neglect of the whites, and seeking to elevate the blacks above the whites, is it too much to ask Southern white people to do their best to educate all classes of white children, and thus contribute to maintain the supremacy of the white race?" Then there is to be a contest for *supremacy*? This is all *stuff*, and bears a lie on its face. Even in this town, under my own observation, whites have been clothed and schooled by those missionaries, and in various places in the South schools have been sustained exclusively for the whites by contributions from the North. The door of *our* school is not closed against any on account of color.

There are no funds in this State at present for the support of public schools; previous to the war there was some provision made by taxation, and the benefit of land set apart for that purpose; but during the war the money raised by taxation was applied to other purposes, and since the war they can scarcely raise enough to run the State Government. We are still in doubt as regards the admission of Alabama. Those suffering from being discharged for voting are to receive rations from the Bureau.

Our Sabbath-school is well attended. We receive, gratuitously, fifty copies of Sabbath-school papers from Cornhill, Boston—part THE FREEDMAN and part the *Child at Home*. The boys and girls are delighted with these papers.

MISSISSIPPI.

FROM C. M. SHACKFORD, OKOLONA.

[The school spoken of in the following letter is now opened with an attendance of nearly one hundred and fifty scholars.]

You have probably received a note from me, dated January 15th, announcing the arrival of the boxes on the evening previous. I had delayed answering your kind letter of December 9th, until I could be able to inform you of their having reached their destination safely. As the time specified for their arrival had passed, I was getting anxious about them, fearing they had met the fate of those consigned to Miss Chamberlain last summer, although it is still uncertain *what* that fate may have been. My fears were relieved and my joy very great, when the messenger returned from the depot with the welcome tidings, "The boxes have come." The contents were very much needed, as we have daily both written and verbal requests for clothing of every description. The *shoes* are invaluable, as nothing of as good a quality can be obtained in Okolona, except at a price beyond the means of the freedmen, consequently there is great demand for them. This clothing is very suitable for the season. There will be no difficulty about having the garments made up, the needles and thread being furnished. The whole pieces of muslin and twilled goods will be very useful. The ladies know not how much good they are doing by their benevolence, or how many blessings are heaped on them by the recipients of their gifts. There is so much satisfaction in clothing the needy; and could you see the joy and gratitude expressed by the increased sparkle of their eyes, and hear their attempts to thank you, you would envy me the opportunity of being the almoner of your bounty. I can realize now that "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The Testaments and Sunday-school charts will be of great service.

"Uncle Edmond," a blind old negro, 70 years a slave, formerly owned by Dr. Tucker, and now a pensioner on his bounty, desires me to return you many thanks for the underclothes given him. Accept my thanks for the jars of preserves—evidence that the teachers are not forgotten. The almost entire failure of the crops this year, the low price of cotton, and the unsettled state of the country conspire to place both planter and freedman in a state of comparative poverty. This has indeed been an unfortunate year for all, and especially discouraging to those at the South who are interested in the education of the freedmen, as those who

are opposed to schools attribute to their influence not only the failure of the crops, but the depression of the times. They argue that the interest of the freedmen in books has caused them to neglect their work, the *true* cause of the failure being the continued heavy rains of the spring, which brought the worm and destroyed the young boles of cotton. We hear of some of the freedmen making it a stipulation in their contracts that they shall have a school during a portion of the year, and also of their employing as teacher one of their own number, who is a little more advanced than the rest. On this plantation a great change has taken place. Dr. Tucker, disheartened by the failure of the crops for two years past, has decided to cultivate but a few (350) acres this year, and, consequently, has largely reduced his force of freedmen. During Christmas week, over 50 of our scholars left. They *all* regretted leaving, and we were sorry to part with them, but were comforted by the thought that this change might be a blessing to those with whom they may be in future associated, and a wise arrangement of Providence for spreading abroad the means of education, as they will find themselves much further advanced than the majority of colored people in this State. It was quite encouraging to find that where a number of families were going to the same neighborhood, they had already made arrangements for having a school among themselves. May He, whose glory, I trust, we have in view, direct all their and our ways, and make these embryo efforts ripen and succeed, as did those of the first apostles.

On January 2d, we reopened our school again, after a week's holiday. We *expected* a great decrease in the number of our pupils, and were gladdened by the attendance of about 50 on the first day. Since, the number has increased to about 80, and as the warm weather approaches, and the children can come from neighboring plantations, the school will average about 100 in daily attendance. The freedmen in Okolona are very anxious for a school. They prefer Northern teachers, and beg us to come over and help them. Ever since the school at Col. Gordon's was broken up, they have been desirous of having Miss Chamberlain return and teach them. I have been looking about for a suitable building, as the school-house, which Mrs. Lacy had occupied, is in a dilapidated condition, and they have no funds to expend on it. I had the offer of a very suitable building, but was disappointed in obtaining it. A few days since, two freedmen from Okolona called to see us, one of whom had just purchased a building containing four or five rooms, which he wished

to rent to us for a school. The rent is \$35 per month. He *guarantees* that more than 100 scholars can readily be obtained, who will gladly pay 25 cents each per month. This sum will pay the rent. Dr. Tucker speaks very favorably of this new opportunity, and thinks there is no doubt of our complete success, as there is a large colored population in Okolona, some in good circumstances. All prefer Northern teachers. We have the assurance of Captain White (of Freedmen's Bureau) that he will give us all the assistance he can in our new undertaking. He has already written Gen. Gillem for a special appropriation for desks, benches, etc., and if we have over 100 pupils, we shall be entitled to \$25 per month. We shall be probably a mark of derision to most of the white population here, but we have courage for the work—are quite sanguine of success. They wish the schools to be opened as soon as possible after Miss Chamberlain's arrival. The building contains four or five rooms, which we shall occupy both as a school-house and residence. The question now is about furniture. Where are the bedsteads which we should have received last summer? Our inventory of household goods is almost as limited as that of the prophet of old—"a bed, a table, and a candlestick." We shall miss the kind attentions in furnishing us with many useful things. We have learned to live without the ornamentals of life. A carpeted floor is a rare sight in this vicinity. I have seen but one since I came South. Ours is truly a missionary work—in our isolation from society, in teaching the ignorant, in deprivation of many comforts, and in being the scorn and derision of the community. There is a glory, excellence, and satisfaction in the work. I hope we may improve our opportunities, and become gainers by experiencing more of the presence of God and the power of Christ resting upon us, and that we may be instrumental in establishing Christ's kingdom among these poor and degraded people, that each of us may at last receive the welcome plaudit, "She hath done what she could." At the Chapel, circumstances have been very unfavorable for our teaching during this cold weather. It being impossible to heat the whole room, we allow the classes to come to the stove alternately, and we favor the bare-footed and thinly clad. With our cloaks and shawls wrapped closely around us, we try to teach, although from the numbness of our hands and feet we could easily imagine ourselves in a Northern latitude. Excuse the length of this letter, which I hope you will not find tedious, and let me hear from you very soon.

